(e) The following steps are taken by NHAI to build road economically:

i. The contracts are awarded on competitive bidding process.

ii. The lenght of highways in contract packages is such that the package is viable and economical.

iii. The Detailed Project Reports are prepared by reputed consultants.

iv. The latest technology is being used.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of a Coal Videsh Ltd.

2879. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to move ahead with plan to allow Coal India Ltd. to set up a new subsidiary company Coal Videsh Ltd. for acquiring coal blocks abroad;

(b) if so, whether Ministry of Finance had objected to this proposal and suggested that Coal India itself should do the acquisition;

(c) whether the Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) CIL Board has sent a proposal to form a new wholly owned subsidiary company of CIL with the name, Coal Videsh, for venturing into coal business opportunities abroad considering the widening demand-supply gap and the amount of coal imported into India. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

E-auction leading to fall in coal prices

†2880. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of coal is continuously decreasing after the implementation of e-auction system for sale of coal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government intend to put in place any alternative system for sale of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average e-auction price of coal sold through e-marketing by CIL during the year 2006-07 (upto July, 2006), has shown a declining trend. The reasons for decline could be attributed to factors like gradual maturity of the market, stabilisation of prices due to removal of fear of scarcity of coal, substantial increase in supply of coal through e-marketing etc.

(c) Government has no intention at present to introduce any alternate system in place of e-marketing.

Fly ash from thermal power plants

†2881. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether fly ash emitting from thermal power plants is being used in coal mines in Orissa;

(b) whether this experiment has been successful;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider using the fly ash emitting from thermal power plants in other coal mines also; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ash dumping in mine voids has been successfully commenced recently. Several mine voids in subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have been identified for dumping of fly ash from nearby power plants.

Coal production and gap between demand and supply

2882. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the country both by Coal India Ltd. and other captive mines;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.